

among those honored with the "Ambassadors for Peace Award—Excellence in Leadership" award. These committed citizens have been working to renew and strengthen our families and marriages, restore our communities, and rebuild our nation and world. We are grateful to the founders of the Ambassadors for Peace, the Rev. and Mrs. Sun Myung Moon, for promoting the vision of world peace and we commend them for their work.

These Ambassadors for Peace have become increasingly effective and relevant in their communities since the tragedy of 9/11. They have been working together to promote understanding among all faiths, particularly with Muslim, Jewish and Christian leaders. With the realization that many of the tensions currently facing the world cannot be addressed without consideration of the religious implications involved, the Ambassadors for Peace have formed an American Interreligious Council. This council seeks to support and advise our Nation's leaders concerning the issues and challenges of seeking lasting peace. The American Interreligious Council is also a part of the effort to create an international council of religious leaders. The members of this council will support the leaders of the United Nations as they work to resolve conflicts throughout the world. This body will provide a direct link between international leaders and the various religious peoples in their constituencies. This will help to ensure that peace agreements are embraced by the diverse communities these leaders represent.

Today, though crisis is at our doorstep, we must maintain an unwavering hope for peace. It has become clear that the establishment of a lasting peace throughout the world will only come to full fruition through the ongoing dialogue and cooperation of religious and political leaders. The Ambassadors for Peace are working tirelessly to bring about international cooperation and are to be commended for their leadership in this great effort.

#### INTRODUCTION OF A PRIVATE BILL FOR THE RELIEF OF JUNIOR ANTHONY FRANCIS

**HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 19, 2003*

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing a private bill to make Junior Anthony Francis a permanent resident of the United States to put an end to deportation proceedings that are pending against him by the Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (BICE).

Junior has lived in the United States for 40 years and has six American-born children. He has been working and supporting his family and living as normal a life as anyone else. He is being considered for deportation not because of any crime that may be part of his past, but because after many years it was discovered that his immigration papers are not in order. But Junior had taken steps, in good faith, to make sure his papers were in order. He may have received bad legal advice that brought him to this point, but he certainly should not be deported because of it.

It is absolutely wrong to deport Junior and break up his family, who are the real victims

in this matter. That is why I am fighting for him. Junior's employer has recruited a new legal team with whom I have been working to keep Junior and his family together in the United States.

We should pass this bill to prevent this injustice from breaking up Junior's family. At the very least, I hope introducing this private bill will help convince federal authorities to be lenient in this case because it is the right thing to do.

#### TRIBUTE TO THE COUNTY OF MARQUETTE ON RECEIVING THE ALL-AMERICAN CITY AWARD

**HON. BART STUPAK**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 19, 2003*

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, perhaps you know of my fondness for spending as much time as possible in my First Congressional District of Michigan, which I can, without any bias whatsoever, say is the most beautiful in the nation.

I rise today to give special recognition to one community in my district, Marquette, which lies on the southern shore of Lake Superior in Michigan's Upper Peninsula.

On June 14, 2003, Marquette County was selected as one of ten communities in the United States to receive an All-America City designation from the National Civic League at a ceremony in Washington, D.C.

The National Civic League has been recognizing civic excellence for 53 years and evaluates how well a community exemplifies grass roots citizen involvement and cross-sector problem solving requiring collaboration among citizens, government, business and nonprofit organizations.

Marquette County was one of thirty candidates who sent hundreds of delegates to Washington to compete in hearings before ten All-America City judges. Forty of those delegates represented Marquette.

While Marquette County is not technically a city, its civic programs and civic efforts are not limited by city-county boundaries. The collaboration that was so important to Marquette's success in the All-America City competition is county wide.

In addition to a well organized substantive presentation, the Marquette delegation also included the Lake Superior Theatre Association which presented dramatic vignettes of cultural life in current day Marquette and Marquette history. The delegation also serenaded the judges, impressing them with enthusiasm and harmony, literally and as a demonstration of the harmonious civic cooperation that was recognized in their selection.

The judges noted that Marquette County's presentation contained more substance than hype, according to Marquette Mining Journal managing editor David Edwards. They cited programs such as the Marquette Medical Care Access Coalition and juvenile restorative justice efforts in announcing their decision.

Marquette's efforts were spear-headed by the Lake Superior Community Partnership, whose chairman, Monsignor Louis Cappel accepted the award in front of a cheering crowd.

Mr. Speaker, this award shows how strong Marquette County's civic spirit is. The true

measure of community is not necessarily coffee bars, good restaurants and well lit streets, although Marquette has all of those. Nor is it natural beauty and a close connection between people and their environment, although Marquette has that in huge measure.

Rather, the best example of true community is shown by Marquette County's programs that help people live happy, productive and engaged lives, supported by and supporting their neighbors. Marquette County's richness in these efforts made it possible for this small, thinly populated piece of God's Country to be named an All-America City in its very first attempt.

I have co-sponsored a House Concurrent Resolution congratulating Marquette County and all ten of the All-America cities for their efforts and successes. It is a small token of recognition for a very large effort. All of Marquette County should be proud.

I certainly am. I ask that my House colleagues join me in extending congratulations to Marquette County, a 2003 All-America City.

#### A TRIBUTE TO DR. AL BEST

**HON. BOB FILNER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 19, 2003*

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker and colleagues, I rise to salute Al Best as he is being honored at the "Sixth Annual Community Tribute Banquet" on June 22, 2003. He is being recognized for his tireless activism and community service on behalf of San Diego's Gay and Lesbian community.

Al was born and raised in Colorado, was hired at the age of 18 by United Airlines, and in 1960 became United's Regional Convention Representative. During this time, he received his BS degree at the University of Colorado. In 1963, Al joined Frontier Air Lines as Southwest Regional Manager, based in Albuquerque, and two years later, he was named to the New Mexico State Aviation Board. He received his Masters' Degree from the University of New Mexico and his Ph.D from New Mexico State University.

When Al first arrived in San Diego in 1975, he immediately became active in the community by volunteering and raising money for outstanding organizations such as The Center and the Metropolitan Community Church. He was one of the founders of Stepping Stone, a non-profit alcohol and drug recovery agency. In 1979, he made history by being the first openly gay person to run for the San Diego City, Council. Even though he was largely outspent and out raised by his opponents, he finished 5th out of 11 in the campaign.

In 1985, Al became the first president of the Harvey Milk Democratic Club. In 1989, he was the first openly gay person appointed to San Diego's Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. He was also a member of Mayor Maureen O'Connor's Violent Crime Task Force. In 1990, he was the first openly gay person sworn into the San Diego Civil Service Commission and became its first openly gay president in 1992. In 1993, he was a co-chair for the Human Rights Campaign milestone March on Washington. He currently serves as Vice Chairman of Something Special Food Pantry, a volunteer organization that distributes food to men, women, children and families who have HIV/AIDS.